

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A sock knitted integrally by a sock knitting machine, the sock comprising:

a cylindrically knitted portion which forms a sole portion and an instep portion;
and

a toe housing portion provided continuously with the cylindrically knitted portion,
wherein said toe housing portion includes an invertedly knitted front portion having a substantially planar trapezoidal shape, an invertedly knitted back portion having a substantially planar trapezoidal shape, and a knitted portion which is provided as a forwardly knitted portion between said invertedly knitted front portion and said invertedly knitted back portion along contours of these front and back portions, and

said knitted portion of said toe housing portion being cylindrical.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The sock according to claim 6, wherein said toe housing portion has a laterally asymmetrical substantially planar trapezoidal shape offset slanted to a thumb side.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The sock according to claim 6, wherein a small toe portion projecting in a substantially planar trapezoidal shape is provided at a part of said forwardly knitted portion of the toe housing portion, said small toe portion being provided continuously with the forwardly knitted portion.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of knitting a sock by a sock knitting machine, the method comprising the steps of:

knitting a cylindrically knitted portion forming a sole portion and an instep portion integrally with each other; and

knitting a toe housing portion for accommodating a toe continuously with said cylindrically knitted portion,

wherein ~~[[at]]~~ said step of knitting the toe housing portion includes the steps of:

invertedly knitting one of ~~both~~ a front portion and a back portion of said toe housing portion ~~are invertedly knitted with changing knitting widths thereof thereby forming so~~ as to form a substantially planar trapezoidal shape having a progressively reduced knitting width toward a tip of the sock,

forwardly knitting a cylindrical knitted portion continuously from said one of the front and back portions, and

~~and a knitted portion is forwardly knitted between the invertedly knitted front portion and the invertedly knitted back portion along respective contours thereof, thus forming a forwardly knitted portion between the front portion and the back portion~~

invertedly knitting the other of the front and back portions of the toe housing portion continuously from said knitted portion, with reversing in a knitting direction from a knitting direction used for knitting said one portion and also changing knitting widths thereof so as to form a substantially planar trapezoidal shape having a progressively reduced knitting width toward the tip of the sock.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein in the course of knitting the forwardly knitted portion along ~~[[the]]~~ a contour of said toe housing portion with forward operation of the sock knitting machine, in a knitting needle region for knitting said toe housing portion of the sock knitting machine, a front side and a back side of a small toe portion are invertedly knitted respectively while changing knitting widths thereof into a substantially planar trapezoidal shape having a progressively reduced knitting width toward a tip of the sock.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The sock according to claim 7, wherein a small toe portion projecting in a substantially planar trapezoidal shape is provided at a part of

said forwardly knitted portion of the toe housing portion, said small toe portion being provided continuously with the forwardly knitted portion.

12. (New) A sock knitted integrally by a sock knitting machine, the sock comprising:

a cylindrically knitted portion which forms a sole portion and an instep portion;

and

a toe housing portion provided continuously with the cylindrically knitted portion, wherein said toe housing portion includes an invertedly knitted front portion having a substantially planar trapezoidal shape, an invertedly knitted back portion having a substantially planar trapezoidal shape, and a knitted portion which is provided as a forwardly knitted portion between said invertedly knitted front portion and said invertedly knitted back portion along contours of these front and back portions, and

wherein a small toe portion projecting in a substantially planar trapezoidal shape is provided at a part of said forwardly knitted portion of the toe housing portion, said small toe portion being provided continuously with the forwardly knitted portion.

13. (New) A method of knitting a sock by a sock knitting machine, the method comprising the steps of:

knitting a cylindrically knitted portion forming a sole portion and an instep portion integrally with each other; and

knitting a toe housing portion for accommodating a toe continuously with said cylindrically knitted portion,

wherein at said step of knitting the toe housing portion, both a front portion and a back portion of said toe housing portion are invertedly knitted with changing knitting widths thereof thereby forming a substantially planar trapezoidal shape having a progressively reduced knitting width toward a tip of the sock, and a knitted portion is forwardly knitted between the invertedly knitted front portion and the invertedly knitted back portion along respective contours thereof, thus forming a forwardly knitted portion between the front portion and the back portion, and

wherein in the course of knitting the forwardly knitted portion along the contour of said toe housing portion with forward operation of the sock knitting machine, in a knitting needle region for knitting said toe housing portion of the sock knitting machine, a front side and a back side of a small toe portion are invertedly knitted respectively while changing knitting widths thereof into a substantially planar trapezoidal shape having a progressively reduced knitting width toward a tip of the sock.

14. (New) A sock knitted integrally by a sock knitting machine, the sock comprising:

a cylindrically knitted portion which forms a sole portion and an instep portion;

and

a toe housing portion provided continuously with the cylindrically knitted portion,

wherein said toe housing portion includes an invertedly knitted front portion having a substantially planar trapezoidal shape, an invertedly knitted back portion having a substantially planar trapezoidal shape, and a knitted portion which is provided as a forwardly knitted portion between said invertedly knitted front portion and said invertedly knitted back portion along contours of these front and back portions,

wherein said toe housing portion has a laterally asymmetrical substantially planar trapezoidal shape offset slanted to a thumb side, and

wherein a small toe portion projecting in a substantially planar trapezoidal shape is provided at a part of said forwardly knitted portion of the toe housing portion, said small toe portion being provided continuously with the forwardly knitted portion.